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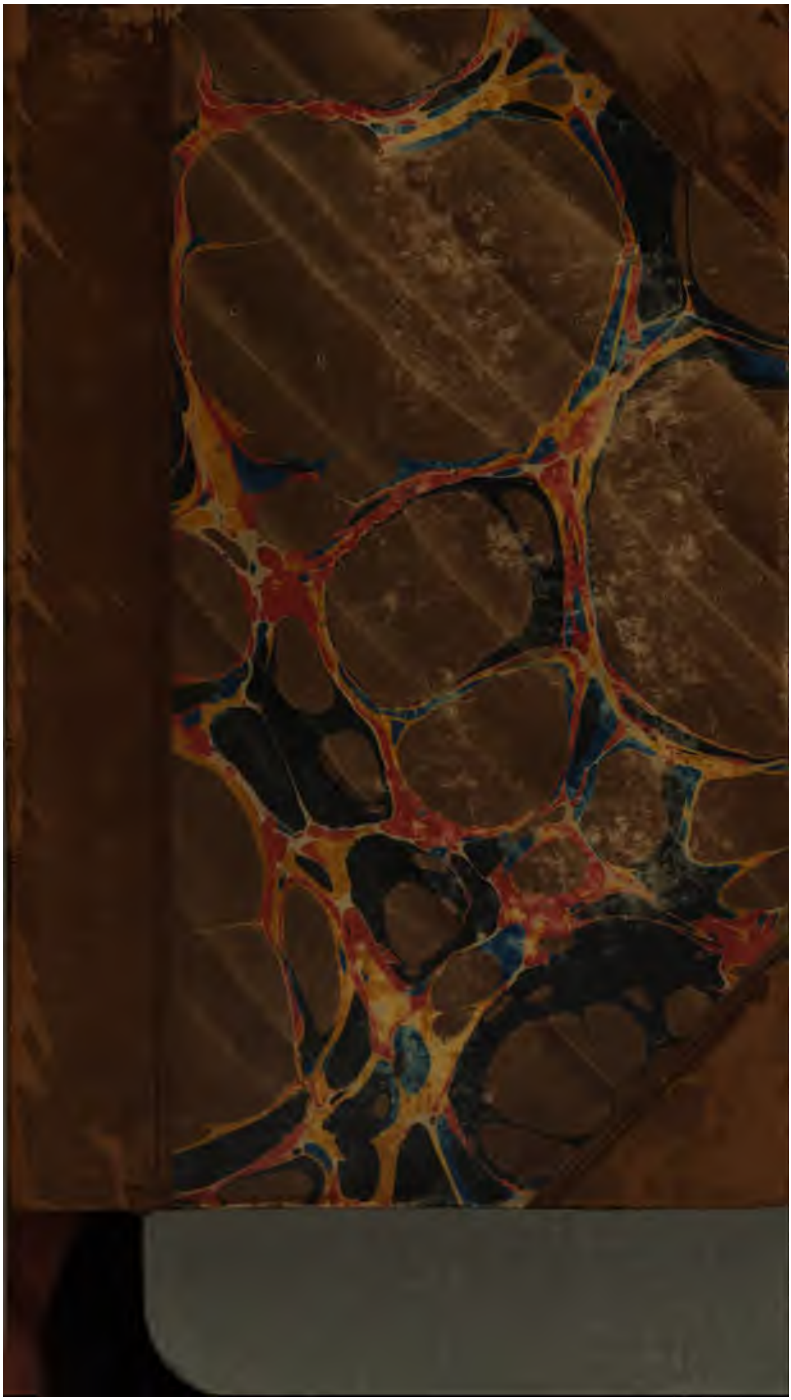

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J. B. NICHOLS AND SON, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET

FLAMINIO, or Flaminius (Mark Anthony), an eminent Latin poet, whose family name was Zarrabini, was born at Serevalle in 1498. His father, John Anthony, who first changed the family name to Flaminio on entering a literary society at Venice, was himself a man of learning, and Professor of Belles Letters in different academies in Italy; and has left some works both in prose and verse, particularly twelve books of letters, in which are many particulars of literary history. He bestowed great pains on the education of his son, and sent him, when at the age of sixteen, to Rome, with a poem addressed to Leo X. exhorting him to make war against the Turks; and a critical work, entitled "Annotationum Sylvæ." Leo appears to have been so pleased with the appearance of young Flaminio, as to request that he might remain at Rome, promising to encourage his studies there; but although this did not take place, in his after visits to Rome the Pope patronised him with

great liberality, and Flaminio answered every expectation that had been formed of his talents. In 1515 he accompanied the Count Castiglione to Urbino, where he resided some months, and was held in the highest esteem by that accomplished nobleman for his amiable qualities and great endowments, but particularly for his early and astonishing talents for Latin poetry. In this year he published at Fano the first specimen of his production, with a few poems of Maraltus, not before printed, in a very rare volume 8vo, entitled "Michaelis Tarchaniotæ Marulli Neniæ. Ejusdem epigrammata nunquam alias impressa. M. Antonii Flaminii Carminum libellus. Ejusdem Ecloga Thyrsis." Of these poems some have been printed, often with variations, in the subsequent editions of his works; but several pieces appear there which are not to be found in the edition of Mancurti, published at Padua, by Comino in 1727, which is considered as the most complete; whence it is probable this early production of Flaminio was not known to his editors. After this Flaminio was removed by his father to Bologna, for the study of philosophy; after which he returned again to Rome, and formed an intimacy with the most illustrious scholars of that city. Without devoting himself to any profession, he for some years attached him-

self to the Cardinal de Sauli, and after his death resided with the Prelate Ghiberti, either at Padua, or at his see of Verona. In 1538 he went to Naples in consequence of a long indisposition, and by relaxation from his studies recovered his former health, and repaired to Viterbo, where Cardinal Pole then resided as Pontifical Legate, and honoured Flaminio by the most friendly intimacy. He also accompanied the Cardinal to the Council of Trent, but refused the office of Secretary to this Council; and by this refusal, as well as by other parts of his conduct, and a certain liberality of sentiment displayed in some of his writings, gave rise to suspicions that he was inclined towards the opinions of the Reformers. Whether this was actually the case has been a subject of dispute among his biographers; but that he was suspected is certain, for his writings were for some time prohibited in the Index Expurgatorius of the Roman Church. His death, which happened at Rome in 1550, was lamented by all the learned of his time; and he appears to have deserved their highest encomiums. His poems place him in the first rank of the Latin school.

MARGARITÆ

HENRICI GALLORUM REGIS SORORI

M. ANTONIUS FLAMINIUS.

Cum Petrus Carnesicus, lectissimus et ornatissimus vir, de tua singulari erga Deum pietate, et assiduo literarum studio, ad me multa scripsisset, hortatusque esset ut si quid novi elucubratus essem, id ad te mitterem, quod tibi scriptorum meorum lectionem non injucundam esse solere affirmaret; hoc tam præclaro de te testimonio commotus, et cum hominis amicissimi auctoritate adductus, tum humanitate tuâ fretus, Carmina, quæ de rebus divinis proxime composui, ad te mittere non sum veritus. In his ego a meo vetere instituto discessi. Davidem ego, et ejus similes poetas imitari malui, quam Horatium vel Catullum: propterea quòd in scriptione rerum divinarum, ut munditiam Latini sermonis et elegantiam adhibendam esse non nego: sic omnem orationis pompam et fucum, et calamistros removendos censeo. Itaque ut C. Lucilius poeta perantiquus dicere solebat se non Persis

scribere, sed Siculis et Tarentinis : sic ego quæcunque de rebus divinis scripsero, ea solum religiosis, et literarum divinarum amatoribus me scripturum profiteor : quibus sine dubio longé gratius faciam, si stylum ita temperavero, quam si orationem fuco et pigmentis illinam. Tu vero, Margarita, religionis specimen clarissimum, hoc ab homine tibi deditissimo opusculum, quale idcunque est, habeto : quod si non ingratum tibi fuisse audiam, et ex hoc molesto quartanæ morbo, quo jam multos menses conflictor, Dei benignitate convaluero, alia a me posthac hujus generis munera expectato.

Vale.

M. ANTONII FLAMINII

DE REBUS DIVINIS

CARMINA.

PRECATIO MATUTINA.

Jam noctis umbras Lucifer
Almæ diei nuncius
Terrâ poloque dimovet,
Simulque nos cubilibus
Monet relictis pectore
Preces ab imo fundere
Ad templa summa cœlitum.
Oremus ergo supplices
Fontem perennem luminum,
Ut sicut omnes aeris
Illustrat oras, vivido
Sic nostra corda repleat
Fulgore Sancti Spiritus,
Qui nos per hæc contagia
Puros ab omni crimine
Traducat ad cœlestium
Sedes beatas : illius

Nutu geruntur omnia.
Cibumque sive sumimus,
Seu quid negotii foris
Tractamus, aut domi, intimâ
Seu mente quid revolvimus,
Id omne semper gloriam
Spectet beati numinis.
Rector Supreme cœlitum
Quæ mente totâ poscimus
Hæc omnibus concedito,
Qui corde puro te colunt,
Et Unicum natum tuum
Cum Sempiterno Spiritu.

PRECATIO MERIDIANA.

Jam Sol citato sidere
Suprema cœli culmina
Percurrit, alma fervidis
Tellus calescit ignibus,
At tu beato lumine
Accende corda frigida
Pater benigne: in omnibus
Tantos piorum sensibus
Ignes amoris excita:
Ut quicquid orbis continet
Præ te sit illis sordidum:

Nec ulla vis hunc fervidum
Amoris æstum temperet:
Sed usque crescens omnia
Convexa cœli transvolet,
Summoque Patri vinculo
Nos jungat insolubili.
Has nos ab imo pectore
Precationes mittimus
Terræ polique Conditor
Tuas ad aures: maxime
Tu vota nostra numine
Dextro secunda, idque ad tuam
Concede nobis gloriam.

PRECATIO VESPERTINA.

Jam vesper ortus incipit
Diem tenebris condere,
Ad nos parentem luminis
Sancti precemur, ne sinat
Noctem suorum mentibus
Calliginosam irrepere:
Seu dulcis almâ recreat
Sopor quiete, languida
Seu liquit ille lumina,
Nunquam recedat a piis
Lux Sempiterna cordibus,
Ut semper in dies magis

Magisque detur maximi
Benignitatem numinis
Videre mente lucidâ :
Et hinc amoris optimi
Ardere semper ignibus.
Supreme cœlitum Pater,
Votis tuorum supplicum
Aures benignas admove :
Ut sensa cordis omnia
Et dicta factaque ad tuam
Sic dirigamus gloriam.

Opem Christi in magnâ animi ægritudine constitutus implorat.

Jesu benigne, fervidas
Precationes, et mea
Ne quæso vota despice.
Ut terra, solis ignibus
Hiulca, sic animus meus
Afflictus, æger, aridus,
Dulcissimum rorem tuum
Expectat, O Salus mea.
Refrigera mentem meam :
Metus, dolores, lacrymas,
Muta perenni gaudio ;
Ut hæ querelæ flebiles
Mutentur in laudes tuas,
Et vox agendis gratiis
Noctes diesque personet.
Ne quæso more judicis,

Quid egerim, quid dixerim,
Quid cogitarim pondera:
Peccata sed mea omnia
Tuo cruore deleas.
Me vulnerum sanet dolor
Tuorum, amara mors tua
Cordi meo dulcedinem
Instillet, ut meam crucem
Et fortis et libens feram.

Quam sint beati qui sumptâ suâ cruce Christum sequuntur.

Beatus ille, qui suam
Tollit crucem quotidie,
Magnisque Jesum passibus
Sectatur; illum maximus
Cœlestium Pater sibi
Adoptat ultro filium:
Eique donat Spiritum
Peccata delentem omnia,
Hæreditatis inclytæ
Pignus beatum, is intimo
In corde miros excitat
Patris amores optimi.
Hinc ille temnens omnia,
Quæcunque tellus et maris
Arena dives continet,
Lætatur unico Deo.
Hinc spem, salutem, gloriam
Suam, suumque gaudium.

Patrem magistrum nominat,
Latusque semper dexterum
Sibi tegentem conspicit:
Per hujus ut vitæ vias
Formidolosas ambulet
Securus, et cari patris
Benignitatem sentiat.
Ergo nec illum territat
Humana vis, nec inferum
Furor tremendus maximis
Periculorum casibus.
Ut dura rupis turgidi
Tunsa procellis Adriæ
Immobilis semper manet,
Nec cessat ullo tempore
Hostes, amicos, patriam
Juvare, negligens sui.
Sic ille vitam cœlitum
Colens, perenni gaudio
Triumphat: impius licet
Terræ marisque sit potens,
Pulchrumque nomen occupet
Felicis, est semper miser.

Comparat Animum suum Flori.

Ut flos tenellus in sinu
Telluris almæ lucidam
Formosus explicat comam,

Si ros et imber educat
Illum : tenella mens mea
Sic floret, almi Spiritus
Dum rore dulci pascitur.
Hoc illa si caret, statim
Languescit : ut flos aridâ
Tellure natus, eum nisi
Et ros et imber educat.

Eos tantum beatos esse affirmat, qui ceteris omnibus relictis, Christo adhærent.

Quousque vana somnia
Falsasque rerum imagines
O cæci amare pergitis ?
Non formâ vincens Nirea,
Non dives usus purpuræ,
Non mens peragrans sidera,
Camposque latos aeris
Marisque, terrasque infimas
Reddunt beatos. Unica
Felicitatis est via,
Jesus benignus, omnium
Dator bonorum. Currite
Omnes ad illum, currite
Fidenter : ille deserens
Amore nostri cœlitum
Sedes beatas, pertulit
Famem, sitimque et vulnera,

Mortemque diram. Neminem
Fastidit ille: perditos,
Ægros: malorum pondere
Pressos juvare diligit.
Non sic et optimum et unicum
Amant parentes filium,
Ut ille nos: O centies
Beatus ille, maxime
Jesu, relictis omnibus,
Qui mente totâ se tibi
In servitutem dedicat.

Prædicat beneficia a Christo in se et ceteros mortales collata.

Jesu beate, numinis
Æterna proles maximi,
Quibus tuam clementiam
Efferre possim laudibus?
Tu pulchra linquens sidera
Formata dextrâ tuâ
Mortale corpus induis:
Ut ipse terram deserens,
Suprema cœli culmina
Conscendam. Acerba vulnera
Crucisque dira sustines
Tormenta, ut ipse callidi
Serpentis ore saucius,
Mortisque victus, gaudeam
Vitâ potitus cœlitum,

Tuoque factus munere
Tuus cohæres. Hæc precor,
Jesu benigne, cogitem
Hæc semper, ut semper tibi
Summoque Patri gratias
Agam, pieque vos colam,
Totâque mente diligam.

Quid servandum sit amatoribus Christi.

Quicunque Jesum diligit,
Humana discat omnia
Nil æstimare: diligens
Opes, honores, gloriam,
Amare Jesum pariter
Nequit. Relinque cætera,
Unumque Jesum posside;
Nam quicquid est usquam boni
Sic possidebis: lacrymas,
Metus, dolores, pectore
Tuo fugabit, dulcia
Semper morantur gaudia
Ubi moratur candidus
Jesus: voluptas unica
Est ille amantium sui.
Quin Mater et Pater tuus
Te derelinquent, optimus
A dextrâ nunquam tuâ
Jesus recedet, omnium
Fidus comes discriminum.

In parte cœli collocas.
Te cœtus omnis cœlitum
Noctes diesque concinit :
Te Sempiternus Spiritus
Salutis auctorem unicum
Testatur esse, tu quies,
Lumen, voluptas mentium :
Tu pastor, agnus omnia
Peccata tollens, Pontifex
Æternus iram maximi
Sedare præsens numinis.
Clemens, suavis, optime
Jesu, tuorum prospera
Cursum benignus, ut soles,
Piasque laudes suscipe
Quas ore puro fundimus.

Christum invocat, magnitudine morbi se jam opprimi sentiens.

Jam quintæ lunæ cornua
Se luce complent horridâ,
Cum febre membra tabida
Depascor, ossa frigore
Tremor furente concutit :
Dein æstus acer intimas
Urit medullas, ut faces
Absumit ignis aridas.
Jam corpus amisi, mei
Vix umbra jam superat levis.

Ut flos gravatus imbribus,
Caput tenellum dejicit:
Sic mens misella perdita
Cedit malorum ponderi.
Jesu benigne respice
Meos labores, dexterâ
Tuâ cadentem subleva.
Non illud ipse jam precor,
Meo recedat corpore
Hæc pestis: unum id omnibus
Votis requiro et obsecro,
Ut robur et constantiam
Mihi ministres: languidos
Artus, medullas, omnia
Hic ignis ossa devoret;
Dum mens refecta, vividâ,
Tuoque fortis spiritu
Resistat, et semper tibi
Jucunda laudes concinat.
Jesus benignus optimus
Horrendâ passus vulnera,
Dolentibus succurrere
Est promptus; ægrimoniam,
Metus, querelas abjice
Fidenter ô anima mea,
Quiesce, nomen invoca
Dulcissimum regis tui.
Est ille munitissima
Arx invocantibus eum.

Dolet se jam senem fieri, neque tamen adhuc cepisse Deo, ex animo servire.

Eheu ! senecta crinibus
Jam sparsa canet, labitur
Ætas, ut unda fluminis.
Auremque vellens pallida
Mors admonet. "Miser, ah miser,
Quousque pergis somnia,
Umbrasque vanas persequi ?
Jamjam Supremi Judicis
Tribunal ad justissimum
Sistere, cordis intima
Qui sensa, qui dicta, omnium
Qui facta novit omnia."
Hæc vera certa judicat
Mens, et relictis omnibus,
Summo beato numini
Servire totis viribus
Exoptat, ardet, nititur.
Sed heu misella, sordidæ
Affixa terræ, inaniter
Laborat : Eia age subveni,
Jesu benigne, subveni,
Tuamque dextram porrige.
Tu morte mortuum tuâ
Olim evocasti ex inferis :
Nunc vita me vivum tua
Perire ne rursum sinat.
Humana fac spernam omnia,
Nudumque te nudus sequar,

Et ponderosi corporis
Me solve tandem nexibus:
Ut pura mens, et integra,
Ævo potita cœlitum,
Te sancte, et optimum Patrem,
Et sempiternum Spiritum,
Laudare nunquam desinat.
Jesus suorum supplicum
Tutela, portus, gaudium,
Quæ totâ mente deprecor,
Concedet: ipse gratias
Agam benigno numini,
Ejusque laudes pectore
Lætante semper concinam.

Quam sit dulcis et salutaris vulnerum et tormentorum Christi assidua meditatio.

Jesu, tuorum vulnerum
Cruore sancto pascere
Me quæso nunquam desinas.
Me sanguis iste roborat,
Dulcique replet gaudio:
Hoc est amoris poculum
Cælestis, omnes sordidos
Pellens amores, ebria
Hac potione mens sui
Et omnium fit immemor,
Quæcunque mundus continet,
Deumque solum cogitat,

Tuumque amorem. Fervide,
Immense, nulli effabilis,
Amor, beatis sedibus
Tu maximi natum Dei
Deducis, ipsique induis
Mortale corpus, asperam,
Dein tollis illud in crucem,
Amabilis, dulcissime,
Amor, meis in sensibus
Tantas amoris excita
Flammas, ut ustis nexibus,
His ponderosi corporis,
Alis tuis ad optimum
Jesum beatus advolem.

Orat ut Christi benignitate sibi liceat pie sancteque vitam agere.

Tutela præsens omnium,
Qui mente puras te colunt,
Da quæso, nil ut cogitem,
Agam, loquar, quod numini
Tuo placere non queat.
Comis benignus in bonos
Malosque sim, ne degener
Sim natus Optimi Patris:
Qui solis almo lumine
Illustrat omne, omnibus
Potum, cibumque suffici.

Legum tuarum per vias
Me continenter dirige :
Bonique quicquid egero,
Id esse totum muneris
Tui sciamque et prædicem.
Seu febris artus pascitur,
Seu miles urit impius
Domum paternam, dicere
Laudes tibi ne desinam :
Sed cuncta numinis tui
Nutu regi nil ambigens,
Vivam quietus. Filios
Dei secunda et aspera
Juvent oportet : gloriam
Tuam, Patrisque maximi
Meæ saluti præferam,
Nec ulla res optatior
Queat mihi contingere,
Quam contumelias pati
Te propter, ipsa carior
Sit luce mors : ut corpore
Exutus, ad tui volem
Regni beata gaudia.

Gratias agit Christo, cujus beneficio e maximis periculis sit ereptus, et ad viam salutis revocatus.

O Lux beata cœlitum,
Mortalium fidissima

Tutela, quas agam tibi
Jesu benigne gratias ?
Ut olim aberrans a grege
Ovis misella saltibus
Formidolosis delitet,
Voranda mox rapacibus
Feris, miserrimus omnium ;
Sic ipse, per mala omnia
Cæcus ruebam, candida
Cum lux beati Spiritus
Tui refulsit, et viam
Quæ ducit ad felicium
Eterna regna cœlitum
Monstravit, ista lux meæ
Mentis tenebras dispulit :
Cordi meo dulcissimi
Faces amoris ista lux
Infixit, illo ex tempore
Te sancte totus ardeo,
Te quæro amore saucius
Videre vultum candidum,
Tuis frui complexibus
Mens ardet ipsa jam nihil
Te præter unum cogitat.

Queritur magnam hominum partem relicto Christo rebus inanibus studere.

Jesu beate, si tuo
Amore sancto perfrui

Quam dulce sic cognoscerent,
Qui res inanes diligunt,
O quam suæ dementiæ
Tæderet ipsos! Vulnera
Acerba corporis tui
Tantâ fluunt dulcedine,
Ut quisquis illa suxerit,
Opes, honores, omnia
Amata jam fastidiat,
Deique solâ gloriâ
Lætetur, oblitus sui.
Sed cæca gens his fontibus
Præfert lacunas putidas
Et pestilentes. Gratia
Magna tibi, Jesu maxime,
Qui me tuo purissimo
Lavas, alisque sanguine.

Prædicat se sine tutela Christi in mala omnia præcipitem ruere.

Te Sancte Jesu supplici
Adoro corde: cor tibi
Meamque mentem dedico.
Ut bimulus puer, suâ
Custode si caret, sibi
Magna creat pericula:
Sic ipse, si desit tui
Tutela præsens Spiritus

In cuncta præcipitem mala.
Dulcis benigne Spiritus,
Me quæso totum posside,
Tuaque flamma incendito
Amore, cor illumina
Mentis tenebras, excoque
Quodcunque inhæret noxii
Fac semper in te gaudeam :
Opes honores sordeant,
Summique Patris gloria
Sit luce carior mihi.
Seu pascit hortus lumina
Florum colore gemmeo,
Seu fons susurrans vitreis
Delectat undis, illico
Vox surgat in laudes Dei.
Sol, luna, fulgor siderum,
Lapsus perennes amnium,
Formosa sylva frugibus
Ager redundans, omnia
Quæcunque cerno maximam
Sancti et beati numinis.
Benignitatem cernere,
Manusque tractare faciant.
Hinc ipse discam comiter
Omnes juvare, nemini
Nocere ; purus, integer,
Deoque carus exigam,
Quod restat ævi, transvolans
Dein summa cœli sidera,
Fruar perenni gaudio.

Commendat animum suum Deo, magnitudine morbi in extremum vitæ periculum adductus.

Rector beate cœlitum,
Qui sic amas mortalium
Salutem, ut almi filii
Cruore sancto laveris
Peccata eorum: suscipe
Servi precantis Spiritum,
Qui fretus unicâ tuâ
Benignitate, languidos
Artus libenter deserit,
Ut alta cœli sidera
Petens, fruatur, optime
Pater, tuâ præsentiâ,
Et sempiterno gaudio.

AD MARGARITAM

HENRICI GALLORUM REGIS SOROREM.

Pudica Virgo, regiæ
Stirpis propago nobilis,
Ornata sanctis moribus,
Et literis, et ingenî
Decore fulgens, scripsimus
Hæc insideret aridis
Cùm longa febris artubus:
Iis addituri plurima
Ni mens gravata corporis
Laboribus languesceret.
Sed tu puella candida,
Cœlestis ardens ignibus
Amoris, ut mens augurat,
Libentius hunc perleges.
Parvum libellum sed pium,
Quam prisca vatum carmina
Nugis referta inanibus.

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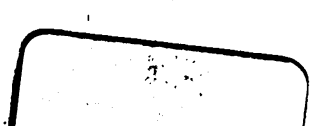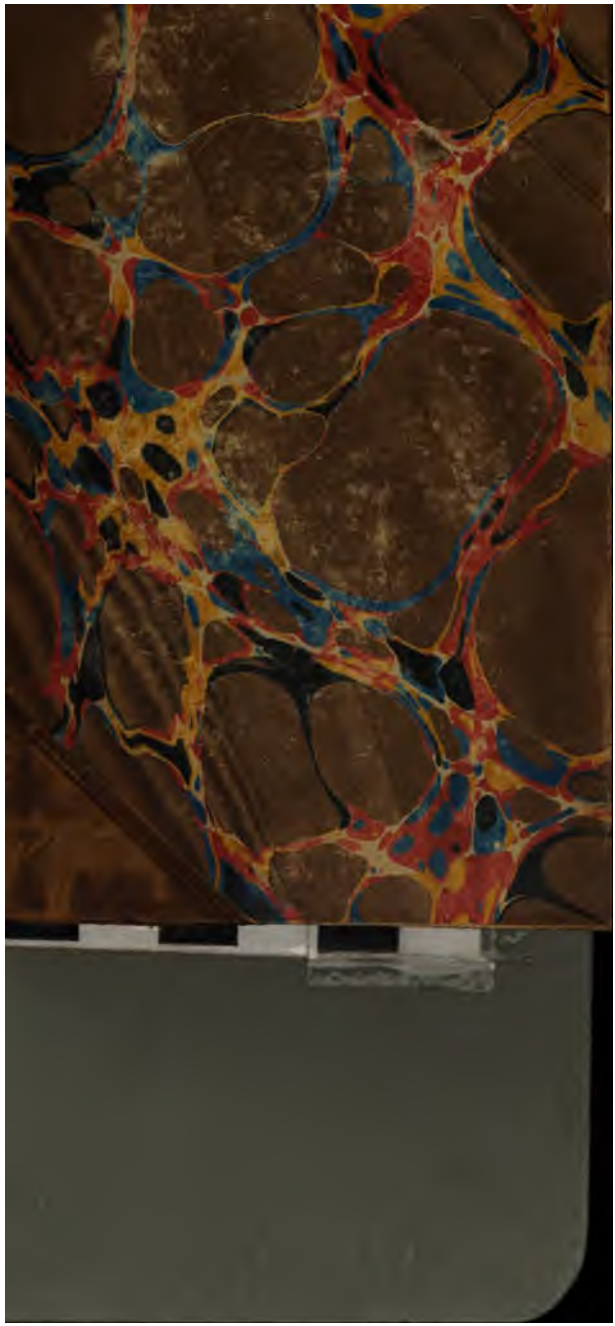
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